AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 10, as follows.

Please cancel claims 17 and 18.

Please add new claim 30, as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing an absorbent and time release material comprising the steps of:

soaking a fibrous material in water to form a first intermediate;

macerating the first intermediate to form a pulp;

forming said pulp into a block;

drying said block in a controlled atmosphere;

immersing ~~impregnating~~ said dried block in ~~with~~ a preselected substance;

grinding said impregnated block to form a powdered material.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp comprises cloth fibers.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp comprises cellulose fibers.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are dried paper pulp.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are short strand wood fibers.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are long strand wood fibers.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are wood fibers from the processing of wood fiber fluff.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: paraffin wax, beeswax, wax derived from animal products and wax derived from vegetable products.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: petroleum wax, motor oil and grease.

10. (currently amended) The ~~A~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp includes powdered waste material selected from the group consisting of: railway ties, telephone poles, creosote, powdered coal, calcium oxalate-solids, KROFTA™ fines, and ~~of~~ bark.

Claims 11-16 (withdrawn).

Claims 17-18 (cancelled).

Claims 19-29 (withdrawn).

30. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said powdered material is pressed into a pellet.